



Members:

Sen. Sue Landske, Chair
Sen. Joseph Zakas
Sen. Rose Antich
Sen. William Alexa
Sen. Earline Rogers
Rep. Thomas Alevizos
Rep. Charlie Brown
Rep. Robert Kuzman
Rep. Timothy Fesko
Rep. Dean Mock
Rep. Ralph Ayres
Mayor Duane Dedelow
Mayor James Perron

NORTHWEST INDIANA COMMUTER RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION

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Authority: P. L. 241-1997

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: December 14, 1998
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404 State House
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 5

Members Present: Sen. Joseph Zakas; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. William Alexa; ; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Timothy Fesko; Mayor Duane Dedelow.

Members Absent: Sen. Sue Landske, Chair, Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Mayor James Perron; Rep. Robert Kuzman; Rep. Dean Mock; Rep. Ralph Ayres; Rep. Thomas Alevizos.

Senator Joseph Zakas, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. Senator Zakas announced that the lack of a quorum would preclude the approval of the minutes of the last meeting and the conducting of official business. He said that the Commission would take testimony on today's agenda.

1. Curt Wiley, Indiana Department of Transportation

Senator Zakas recognized Mr. Curt Wiley, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation. Mr. Wiley introduced Mr. Bruce Mansfield of the consulting group Burgess\Nipole. Mr. Mansfield addressed the Commission on the subject of the Northwest Indiana Corridor Transportation Study. Mr. Mansfield distributed a report that detailed the progress made thus far in the study.¹ The report also lists the key elements of the transportation problem. These elements are:

1. Traffic growth
2. Congestion
3. Infrastructure Deterioration
4. Air Quality
5. Safety

¹This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230 of the State House, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317)232-9856.

2. Jim Jett, Legislative Services Agency

Senator Zakas next recognized Mr. Jim Jett, staff attorney of the Commission. Mr. Jett addressed the Commission on the issue of Overweight truck permits in other states. Mr. Jett distributed a memorandum and a report on the subject.² Mr. Jett said that the current Indiana overweight permits have both statutory and administrative rule requirements. The current fee for the overweight permit is \$42.50 per single trip authorization.

3. Jim Poe, Indiana Department of Revenue

Senator Zakas next called upon Mr. Jim Poe of the Indiana Department of Revenue-Motor Carrier Services Division. Mr. Poe addressed the Commission on the subject of the Overweight Vehicle Permitting. Mr. Poe distributed a report entitled Michigan Train Vehicle Permitting Program.³ Mr. Poe told the Commission that when the main application on the mainframe computer is unavailable, the Motor Carrier Services Division is able to issue temporary permits. He said that these valuable permits are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Mr. Poe also said that the processing time for Michigan Train permits currently is about two minutes, down from one to two days prior to 1996.

Major Robert Seifert of the Indiana State Police Enforcement Section distributed a handout that reported total overweight arrests and total arrests.⁴

4. Dennis Faulkenberg, Indiana Department of Transportation

Senator Zakas called upon Mr. Dennis Faulkenberg, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Transportation (INDOT). Mr. Faulkenberg addressed the Commission on the INDOT's Biennial Budget request and its impact on Northwest Indiana. Mr. Faulkenberg distributed INDOT's proposed budget for the FY 1999-2001 biennium.⁵

Mr. Faulkenberg said that staffing levels of the INDOT have been reduced by over 10% since the early 1990s. He also said that controlling INDOT's operating budget has enabled them to dedicate a larger share of available resources to program budgets. Mr. Faulkenberg further commented that preservation of the state's 11,000 miles of roads and bridges requires an ever increasing share of the INDOT's capital budget. He said that INDOT's Maintenance Work Program funds roadway lighting, traffic maintenance contracts, and materials used by the in-house maintenance crews. The handout distributed by Mr. Faulkenberg also details the Crossroads 2000 program, with a listing of the various projects, the dollar amounts involved and the years the money is expected to be spent. The report also includes a federal funding update.

Mr. Faulkenberg next made available Northwest Indiana Capital Construction Projects scheduled for FY 1999-2001.⁶ This report covered Lake, Porter, LaPorte, St. Joseph, and Elkhart counties. For fiscal year 1999, the total cost of the capital construction projects for these counties will amount to \$77,289,000 including \$6,885,000 of local money. For fiscal year 2000, the total is \$77,873,000,000, including \$35,272,000 of local money. For fiscal year 2001, the total will amount to \$30,743,000, including \$15,353,000 of local funds.

5. John Parsons, Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD)

Senator Zakas called upon Mr. John Parsons of NICTD, operator of the South Shore Railroad, to address

²Mr. Jett's memorandum is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see footnote 1).

³Mr. Poe's report is on file in the Legislative Information Center, (see footnote 1).

⁴Major Seifert's handout is on file in the Legislative Information Center, see footnote 1).

⁵This document is available in the Legislative Information Center (See footnote 1).

⁶This document is available in the Legislative Information Center (See footnote 1).

the Commission on the its Major Investment Study (MIS). Mr. Parsons distributed a map showing where the MIS is targeted.⁷ The MI is a \$150 million capital project. Mr. Parsons said that Phase I, or about 1/3 of the MIS, is completed at this time.

Senator Zakas adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

⁷This document is available in the Legislative Information Center (See footnote 1).